

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Claims 1-21 (cancelled)

22. (New) Active substance-doped water-absorbing polymer particles comprising:

- Φ1. an active substance in a quantity in the range from about 0.001 to about 30 wt.%, based on the active substance-doped water-absorbing polymer particles; and
- Φ 2. an absorber matrix in a quantity in the range from about 70 to about 99.999 wt.%, based on the active substance-doped water-absorbing polymer particles,

wherein the absorber matrix comprises a cross-linked polyacrylic acid to at least about 90 wt.%, based on the absorber matrix; and

wherein the cross-linked polyacrylic acid comprises, to at least about 90 wt.%, based on the cross-linked polyacrylic acid, an acrylic acid that is partially neutralized to at least about 30 mol. %.

23. (New) Active substance-doped water-absorbing polymer particles according to Claim 22, wherein the active substance comprises any one of a care substance, a wound-treating substance, or a care substance and a wound-treating substance.

24. (New) Active substance-doped water-absorbing polymer particles according to Claim 23, wherein the care substance comprises a skin care substance capable of any one of cleaning the skin, perfuming the skin, changing an appearance of the skin, protecting the skin, maintaining the skin in a good condition, or any combination of any of the preceding.

25. (New) Active substance-doped water-absorbing polymer particles according to Claim 22, wherein the active substance comprises a functional group including any one of a double bond, an OH group, an NH group, a COOH group, a salt of at least one of these groups, or any combination of any of the preceding.

26. (New) Active substance-doped water-absorbing polymer particles according to Claim 22, wherein the active substance comprises at least one wound-treating substance or a mixture of at least two wound-treating substances capable of disinfecting a wound area by any one of promoting homeostasis of a wound environment, stimulating cell growth in the wound area, stimulating a secretion of one or more proteins in the wound area, stimulating a secretion of proteoglycans in the wound area, stimulating a secretion of messenger substances by the skin cells in the wound area, or any combination of any of the preceding.

27. (New) Active substance-doped water-absorbing polymer particles according to Claim 23, wherein the active substance comprises any one of an allantoin, a recutita, an arnica, a biotin, a coenzyme Q10, a dexpanthenol, a honey or honey extract, an amino acid, a niacinamide, a vitamin C or its esters, a vitamin E or its esters, or any combination of any of the preceding.

28. (New) Active substance-doped water-absorbing polymer particles according to Claim 22, wherein the active substance comprises a substance substantially homogeneously distributed over the absorber matrix.

29. (New) Active substance-doped water-absorbing polymer particles according to Claim 22, wherein the active substance-doped water-absorbing polymer particles include a residual monomer content of the monomer on which the water-absorbing polymer particles are based of under about 500 ppm.

30. (New) Active substance-doped water-absorbing polymer particles according to Claim 22, wherein an active substance availability comprise at least about 40 wt.% according to the Extraction Test described herein.

31. (New) A water-absorbing composition comprising:
- Γ1. a polycondensate matrix based on at least one polycondensate monomer with at least one polycondensate group; and
  - Γ2. a particulate water-absorbing polymer comprising an active substance including at least one functional group that can react with at least one polycondensate group to form a covalent link; or  
a particulate water-absorbing polymer comprising:
    - Φ1. an active substance in a quantity in the range from about 0.001 to about 30 wt.%, based on the active substance-doped water-absorbing polymer particles; and
    - Φ 2. an absorber matrix in a quantity in the range from about 70 to about 99.999 wt.%, based on the active substance-doped water-absorbing polymer particles,wherein the absorber matrix comprises a cross-linked polyacrylic acid to at least about 90 wt.%, based on the absorber matrix; and  
wherein the cross-linked polyacrylic acid comprises, to at least about 90 wt.%, based on the cross-linked polyacrylic acid, an acrylic acid that is partially neutralized to at least about 30 mol. %,
- wherein the particulate water-absorbing polymer is at least partially surrounded by the polycondensate matrix;
- wherein at least the particulate water-absorbing polymer comprises the active substance; and
- wherein the water-absorbing composition has an active substance availability of at least about 10 wt.% according to the Extraction Test described herein.

32. (New) A water-absorbing composition according to Claim 31, wherein the active substance comprises any one of a care substance, a wound-treating substance, a salt of a care substance, a salt of a wound-treating substance, or any combination of any of the preceding.

33. (New) A water-absorbing composition according to Claim 31, wherein the water-absorbing polymer has at least one of the following properties:

- A1) a particle size distribution, whereby at least about 80 wt.% of the particles have a particle size in a range from about 20  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 900  $\mu\text{m}$  according to ERT 420.1-99;
- A2) a Centrifuge Retention Capacity (CRC) of at least about 10 g/g, preferably at least about 20 g/g according to ERT 441.1-99;
- A3) an Absorption Against Pressure (AAP) at about 0.7 psi of at least about 4 g/g according to ERT 442.1-99;
- A4) a water soluble polymer content after about 16 hours extraction of less than about 25 wt.%, based on the total weight of the water-absorbing polymer, according to ERT 470.1-99; or
- A5) a residual moisture of at most about 15 wt.%, based on the total weight of the water-absorbing polymer, according to ERT 430.1-99.

34. (New) A water-absorbing composition according to Claim 31, wherein the water-absorbing polymer comprises:

- ( $\alpha$ 1) about 0.1 to about 99.999 wt.% polymerized, ethylenically unsaturated, acidic group-containing monomers or salts thereof or polymerized, ethylenically unsaturated monomers comprising a protonated or quaternated nitrogen, or mixtures thereof,
- ( $\alpha$ 2) 0 to about 70 wt.% polymerized, ethylenically unsaturated monomers copolymerizable with ( $\alpha$ 1),

( $\alpha$ 3) about 0.001 to about 10 wt.% of one or more crosslinkers,

( $\alpha$ 4) 0 to about 30 wt.% water soluble polymers, and

( $\alpha$ 5) 0 to about 20 wt.% of one or more auxiliaries,

wherein the sum of the weight quantities ( $\alpha$ 1) to ( $\alpha$ 5) amounts substantially to about 100 wt.%.

35. (New) A water-absorbing composition according to Claim 31, wherein the polycondensate matrix comprises at least about 10 wt.%, based on the polycondensate matrix, a polyurethane.

36. (New) A water-absorbing composition according to Claim 31, wherein the polycondensate matrix comprises a foam.

37. (New) A composite comprising a water-absorbing composition according to Claim 31.

38. (New) A composite according to Claim 37, wherein the composite comprises at least one of the following properties:

V1) a viscose elasticity [ $\tan\delta$  ( $\omega = 0.3$  rad/s)] in the range from about 0.1 to about 10;

V2) a liquid absorption of at least about 5 g/100 cm<sup>2</sup>;

V3) a water vapor permeability of at least about 100 g/(m<sup>2</sup>x24h); or

V4) an O<sub>2</sub> permeability of at least about 100 cm<sup>3</sup>/(m<sup>2</sup>x24h).

39. (New) A composite according to Claim 37, further comprising a film.

40. (New) A composite according to Claim 38, further comprising a film.
41. (New) A composite according to Claim 39, wherein the film has a water vapor permeability in the range from about 100 to about 2000 g/(m<sup>2</sup>x24h).
42. (New) A composite according to Claim 40, wherein the film has a water vapor permeability in the range from about 100 to about 2000 g/(m<sup>2</sup>x24h).
43. (New) A composite according to Claim 39, wherein the composition is directly adjacent to a film.
44. (New) A composite according to Claim 40, wherein the composition is directly adjacent to a film.
45. (New) Active substance-doped water-absorbing polymer particles according to Claim 22 comprising a hygiene article.
46. (New) A water-absorbing composition according to Claim 31 comprising a hygiene article.
47. (New) A composite according to Claim 37 comprising a hygiene article.

48. (New) A process for producing a water-absorbing composition, the process comprising the step of:

- a. providing a particulate water-absorbing polymer comprising an active substance;
- b. forming a condensate matrix based on at least one polycondensate monomer; and
- c. at least partially incorporating the particulate water-absorbing polymer into the condensate matrix,

wherein the particulate water-absorbing polymer comprises the active substance or

wherein an active substance-doped water-absorbing polymer particle comprising:

- Φ1. an active substance in a quantity in the range from about 0.001 to about 30 wt.%, based on the active substance-doped water-absorbing polymer particles; and
- Φ 2. an absorber matrix in a quantity in the range from about 70 to about 99.999 wt.%, based on the active substance-doped water-absorbing polymer particles,

wherein the absorber matrix comprises a cross-linked polyacrylic acid to at least about 90 wt.%, based on the absorber matrix; and

wherein the cross-linked polyacrylic acid comprises, to at least about 90 wt.%, based on the cross-linked polyacrylic acid, an acrylic acid that is partially neutralized to at least about 30 mol. %,

is contacted with the polycondensate monomer before the end of the polycondensate matrix formation.

49. (New) A process according to Claim 48, wherein the active substance comprises any one of a care substance, a wound-treating substance, or a care substance and a wound-treating substance.

50. (New) A water absorbent composition obtainable by the process according to Claim 48.

51. (New) A water absorbent composition according to Claim 50, wherein the water-absorbing polymer has at least one of the following properties:

- A1) a particle size distribution, whereby at least about 80 wt.% of the particles have a particle size in a range from about 20  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 900  $\mu\text{m}$  according to ERT 420.1-99;
- A2) a Centrifuge Retention Capacity (CRC) of at least about 10 g/g according to ERT 441.1-99;
- A3) an Absorption Against Pressure (AAP) at about 0.7 psi of at least about 4 g/g according to ERT 442.1-99;
- A4) a water soluble polymer content after about 16 hours extraction of less than about 25 wt.%, based on the total weight of the water-absorbing polymer, according to ERT 470.1-99; or
- A5) a residual moisture of at most about 15 wt.%, based on the total weight of the water-absorbing polymer, according to ERT 430.1-99.



52. (New) A water absorbent composition according to Claim 50, wherein the water-absorbing polymer comprises:

- ( $\alpha$ 1) about 0.1 to about 99.999 wt.% polymerized, ethylenically unsaturated, acidic group-containing monomers or salts thereof or polymerized, ethylenically unsaturated monomers comprising a protonated or quaternated nitrogen, or mixtures thereof,
- ( $\alpha$ 2) 0 to about 70 wt.% polymerized, ethylenically unsaturated monomers copolymerizable with ( $\alpha$ 1),
- ( $\alpha$ 3) about 0.001 to about 10 wt.% of one or more crosslinkers,
- ( $\alpha$ 4) 0 to about 30 wt.% water soluble polymers, and
- ( $\alpha$ 5) 0 to about 20 wt.% of one or more auxiliaries,

wherein the sum of the weight quantities ( $\alpha$ 1) to ( $\alpha$ 5) amounts to about 100 wt.%.

53. (New) A water absorbent composition according to Claim 50, wherein the polycondensate matrix comprises at least about 10 wt.%, based on the polycondensate matrix, of a polyurethane.

54. (New) A water absorbent composition according to Claim 50, wherein the polycondensate matrix comprises a foam.

55. (New) A composite comprising a water absorbent composition according to Claim 50.

56. (New) A composite according to Claim 55, with at least one of the following properties:

- V1) a viscose elasticity [ $\tan\delta$  ( $\omega = 0.3$  rad/s)] in the range from about 0.1 to about 10;
- V2) a liquid absorption of at least about 5 g/100 cm<sup>2</sup>;
- V3) a water vapor permeability of at least about 100 g/(m<sup>2</sup>x24h); or
- V4) an O<sub>2</sub> permeability of at least about 100 cm<sup>3</sup>/(m<sup>2</sup>x24h).

57. (New) A composite according to Claim 55, further comprising a film.

58. (New) A composite according to Claim 57, wherein the film has a water vapor permeability in the range from about 100 to about 2000 g/(m<sup>2</sup>x24h).

59. (New) A composite according to Claim 57, wherein a water absorbent composition is directly adjacent to the film.

60. (New) A water absorbent composition according to Claim 50 comprising a hygiene article.

61. (New) A composite according to Claim 55 comprising a hygiene article.

62. (New) A composite according to Claim 60 comprising a hygiene article.

63. (New) A method comprising using a composition according to Claim 32 to release a wound-treating substance.

64. (New) A method comprising using a composition according to Claim 50 to release a wound-treating substance.

65. (New) A method comprising using a water-absorbing polymer to release a wound-treating substance from a polycondensate matrix.

66. (New) A method comprising using active substance-doped water-absorbing polymer particles according to Claim 32 to treat a wound of a higher vertebrate organism or for preventing the formation of a wound at or in a higher vertebrate organism.

67. (New) A method comprising using a composition according to Claim 50 to treat a wound of a higher vertebrate organism or for preventing the formation of a wound at or in a higher vertebrate organism.

68. (New) A method comprising using a composite according to Claim 55 to treat a wound of a higher vertebrate organism or for preventing the formation of a wound at or in a higher vertebrate organism.

69. (New) Using any one of:

(a) active substance-doped water-absorbing polymer particles comprising:

Φ1. an active substance in a quantity in the range from about 0.001 to about 30 wt.%, based on the active substance-doped water-absorbing polymer particles; and

Φ2. an absorber matrix in a quantity in the range from about 70 to about 99.999 wt.%, based on the active substance-doped water-absorbing polymer particles,

wherein the absorber matrix comprises a cross-linked polyacrylic acid to at least about 90 wt.%, based on the absorber matrix; and

wherein the cross-linked polyacrylic acid comprises, to at least about 90 wt.%, based on the cross-linked polyacrylic acid, an acrylic acid that is partially neutralized to at least about 30 mol. %;

(b) a water-absorbing composition comprising:

Γ1. a polycondensate matrix based on at least one polycondensate monomer with at least one polycondensate group; and

Γ2. a particulate water-absorbing polymer comprising an active substance including at least one functional group that can react with at least one polycondensate group to form a covalent link; or

a particulate water-absorbing polymer comprising:

Φ1. an active substance in a quantity in the range from about 0.001 to about 30 wt.%, based on the active substance-doped water-absorbing polymer particles; and

Φ 2. an absorber matrix in a quantity in the range from about 70 to about 99.999 wt.%, based on the active substance-doped water-absorbing polymer particles,

wherein the absorber matrix comprises a cross-linked polyacrylic acid to at least about 90 wt.%, based on the absorber matrix; and

wherein the cross-linked polyacrylic acid comprises, to at least about 90 wt.%, based on the cross-linked polyacrylic acid, an acrylic acid that is partially neutralized to at least about 30 mol. %,

wherein the particulate water-absorbing polymer is at least partially surrounded by the polycondensate matrix;

wherein at least the particulate water-absorbing polymer comprises the active substance; and

wherein the water-absorbing composition has an active substance availability of at least about 10 wt.% according to the Extraction Test described herein;

- (c) a composite comprising a water-absorbing composition according to (b); or
- (d) at least two thereof

in a hygiene article or a wound treatment article.